

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 L-02 IO-03 COA-01 ACDA-10 COME-00

INT-01 NSF-01 CG-00 ARA-10 FEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-04 PRS-01 SP-02

DRC-01 DOTE-00 /063 W

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R 101511Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2203

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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FROM HEG AND YODER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XV, TGEN, FR

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC RESOURCE CONSULTATIONS IN PARIS

1. US TEAM HAD CORDIAL MEETING IN PARIS WITH AMBASSADOR CHARPENTIER AND MR. JEAN PONSOGGE PLUS REPS FROM FRENCH ENERGY AND FOREIGN MINISTRIES. CHARPENTIER STATED BASIS FRENCH POSITION ON RESOURCE ISSUE AS FOLLOWS:

A) PRESERVATION OF TREATY IS PARAMOUNT FRENCH INTEREST.

B) RULE OF UNANIMITY MUST GOVERN ALL DECISIONS ON RESOURCE EXPLORATION, INCLUDING GRANTING OF PERMITS OR LICENSES.

AUTHORIZATIONS SHOULD BE GRANTED ONLY TO GOVERNMENTS AND NOT TO CORPORATIONS OR CITIZENS.

C) SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND THROUGH DELIBERATIONS AMONG THE TREATY PARTIES BUT NOT NECESSARILY WITHIN CONTEXT OF TREATY.

D. TREATY PARTIES SHOULD AGREE ON SOME INTERIM MEASURES TO INCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF DISCORD ARISING WHILE SOLUTION

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IS BEING WORKED OUT.

2. CHARPENTIER INDICATED FRANCE NO LONGER WEDDED TO FORMAL MORATORIUM PROPOSAL BUT BELIEVES MINERAL RESOURCE ORIENTED ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED BY ALL PARTIES WHILE AGREED ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING WORKED OUT. FRANCE HOLDS VIEW THAT OFFSHORE PETROLEUM IS ONLY MINERAL RESOURCE OF PRACTICAL INTEREST AND THAT EXPLOITATION THIS RESOURCE IS POSSIBILITY ONLY FOR DISTANT FUTURE.

3. FRENCH EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD SUBJECT. CHARPENTIER EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SOVIETS WILL BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH ON MATTER THAN LATIN AMERICANS. HE URGED US TO HAVE BILATERAL TALKS WITH SOVIETS BEFORE APRIL CONSULTATIVE SO SOVIETS CANNOT CONTINUE TO PLEAD MISUNDERSTANDING OF AGENDA ITEM AND CONSEQUENT LACK OF INSTRUCTIONS AS THEY DID IN WELLINGTON.

4. OTHER VIEWS OF INTEREST EXPRESSED BY FRENCH WERE:

A) AGREEMENT WITH UK/AUSTRALIAN VIEW THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP ANTARCTIC RESOURCE ISSUES OUT OF UN LOS DISCUSSIONS. CONCERN OVER THIS POSSIBILITY MAY INDUCE CHILE AND ARGENTINA TO WORK TOWARD RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM AT OSLO MEETING IN APRIL.
B) BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ARE REALLY OF MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN AND PARTIES SHOULD BE DISCUSSING CONTROL OF KRILL HARVEST AHEAD OF PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT.
C) FRENCH CONSIDER THEMSELVES COMPETENT TO ISSUE LICENSES WITHIN THEIR CLAIMED AREA INCLUDING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.
D) SUBJECT TO RULE OF UNANIMOUS CONSENT FRENCH WOULD BE WILLING TO LICENSE FRENCH CONCERN FOR RESOURCE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE CLAIMED AREA AND TO ALLOW FOREIGN ENTERPRISES TO CONDUCT SUCH ACTIVITIES WITHIN FRENCH CLAIM.
E) NO FORMAL DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT PREP COM MTG. TO THIS END FRENCH PLAN TO SEND ONLY LOCAL AMBASSADOR. FYI: CHARPENTIER APPEARED VIGOROUS AND IN GOOD HEALTH, AND STATED HE INTENDS TO HEAD FRENCH DELEGATION TO APRIL CONSULTATIVE MEETING. END FYI.

5. FRENCH WOULD PREFER ARRANGEMENT BE CONCLUDED AMONG THE TWELVE SIGNATORIES ONLY, BUT RAISED POSSIBILITY IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO INCLUDE THE FIVE ACCEDING NATIONS.

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6. FRENCH WERE OPEN AND QUITE WILLING TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND DID NOT APPEAR DISSATISFIED THAT US SIDE DISCUSSED QUESTION IN GENERALITIES. FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSERVATION, NATURAL RESOURCES, MINERALS, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRUSSE07905
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740289-0073
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741057/aaaabwra.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCI
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTARCTIC RESOURCE CONSULTATIONS IN PARIS
TAGS: TGEN, XV, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005